

Claims

1. A power supply unit controller for a rack enclosure in which a plurality of devices communicate via a backplane, said controller comprising:
- means for reading at least one signal indicative of an output supply level being provided to said backplane by a power supply unit associated with said power supply unit controller;
- memory for storing at least one value associated with a respective one of the at least one signal, at least one scaling value associated with a respective one of the at least one signal and dependent on said power supply unit, and a power supply unit serial number; and
- communicating means, responsive to a request from one of said devices, for a returning a state of said associated power supply unit to said requesting device, said state including a combination of:
- a summary of the current status of the power supply unit,
- said at least one value,
- said at least one scaling value, and
- said power supply unit serial number,
- according to said device request.
2. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said controller is arranged to store scaling values dependent on the supply levels supplied by the power supply unit associated with the controller.
3. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said device is a higher level processor arranged to monitor environmental conditions in an entire rack enclosure and the controller is responsive to a request from said processor to return said scaling values.
4. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said controller is arranged to store a power supply unit serial number.
5. A power supply unit controller according to claim 1 wherein said controller is responsive to a device request to condition the amount of information returned by the power supply unit controller in response to the request.

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6. A rack enclosure including a backplane, at least one power supply unit connected to and adapted to supply power to said backplane, each associated with a respective power supply unit controller according to claim 1, and a plurality of devices receiving power from said backplane, at least one of said devices adapted to communicate with the at least one power supply unit controller.

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